



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 657-2666
FAX (916) 654-9780

Date: February 19, 1997

To: Douglas P. Wheeler, Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Section 785356.5 of Proposition 204

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has been working with the CALFED agencies to establish the procedures called for in Section 78536.5 of Proposition 204. This memo presents the planning process that has been designed to guide the expenditure of the \$60 million in this subaccount.

The following groups will be involved in the planning process:

Bay-Delta Advisory Council

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council is an advisory council chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act to provide input to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. BDAC will be provided with regular updates on the planning process and Ecosystem Roundtable recommendations.

Ecosystem Roundtable

The Ecosystem Roundtable has been established as a subcommittee of the Bay Delta Advisory Council. Its mission is to provide stakeholder input on the coordination of existing and anticipated state and federal ecosystem restoration and management programs. It will fulfill this function until a separate long term institution or some other arrangement is created. Because it is a subcommittee of BDAC, it serves at the discretion of the chair and will not exist once BDAC is disbanded. Specifically, the Ecosystem Roundtable will provide advice on the planning process to select and implement ecosystem restoration projects funded by the state, federal and stakeholder contributions to Category III. Additionally, the Roundtable will provide advice on the broader task of coordinating existing state and federal ecosystem restoration programs.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

CALFED Agencies

CALFED agency managers regularly meet to discuss issues related to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. They will be regularly updated on the progress of the planning process by CALFED Bay-Delta Program staff. Each manager will be provided with the necessary information so they can decide which programs and projects they believe should be funded. This decision of the individual CALFED agencies will be summarized in a document signed by the Secretary for Resources and the Secretary of the Interior.

CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program has established a restoration coordination program staff who will be responsible for the day to day management of the planning process. This will include seeking technical input from experts, preparing reports, and administering the project selection process.

The steps in this planning process are as follows:

- *Overall guidance for 3 to 5 year workplan:* An implementation strategy will form the basis for developing three to five year priorities. This implementation strategy will identify priority species, habitat types, and ecosystem processes. It will provide guidance on how resources should be allocated amongst these priorities. This implementation strategy will be reviewed by technical groups and the Ecosystem Roundtable. It will then be presented to the Ecosystem Roundtable, BDAC, and CALFED as appropriate.
- *3 to 5 year workplan:* Based on the implementation strategy, technical teams can identify major problem areas and limiting factors and develop recommended actions to address them. This can be done on a geographic basis for areas such as the San Joaquin and Sacramento systems and for the Delta. Where there is need for a technical committee to work on a program that spans the geographic areas, one can be convened. These teams will be open to technical experts from the agencies, the stakeholders, and the general public. Their mission will be to provide CALFED staff with technical information needed to develop a prioritized list of problems that need to be addressed and projects and programs to address those problems. Updates on this work will be presented to the Ecosystem Roundtable, BDAC, and CALFED as appropriate. Based on the work of these technical teams, a draft of the annual workplan should be available for review by March or April. This draft should be peer reviewed by outside experts. It can then be presented to the Ecosystem Roundtable, BDAC, and CALFED as appropriate. It is expected that it could be finalized in April.
- *Request for Proposals and Evaluation Criteria:* Once the annual workplan is developed, a CALFED agency team can develop a draft package designed to develop

individual projects and programs. This could include both CALFED agency actions and solicitation of proposals from outside parties. This is expected to take place in April and May. This document will be reviewed by the Ecosystem Roundtable for policy considerations and to ensure that it addresses the priorities identified in the implementation strategy and the 3 to 5 year workplan. The document will then be presented to BDAC and CALFED as appropriate.

- *List of Projects and Programs:* A complete, final package to solicit projects and programs will be widely circulated. Proposals that are submitted will be reviewed and ranked. CALFED staff will forward a list of programs and projects recommended for funding to the Ecosystem Roundtable to seek their advice. This list as well as the input from the Ecosystem Roundtable will then be presented to BDAC and CALFED as appropriate. CALFED will be responsible for the final decision on the recommended projects and programs expected in June or July of 1997. A decision by CALFED on projects and programs does not represent approval under any regulatory authority and the projects and programs must comply with all appropriate environmental laws and regulations.

This planning process will be used to allocate the majority of the funds available. However, an adaptive management allocation will also be established to take advantage of opportunities and to adapt to new challenges in ecosystem restoration.

There are administrative details to the planning process that remain to be worked out including the exact criteria and rating system to be used to select projects and the identification of staff to prepare contracts or grants to fund projects. We will continue to work with the CALFED agencies to develop these details and will summarize them in a future memo.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Cindy Darling at (916) 657-2666.

cc: Ecosystem Roundtable Members
CALFED Management Team Members
BDAC Members
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Staff